

REFOCUS

Refocus on God's Word

2 Timothy 3:14-17

How Did we Lose Our Focus on God's Word?

- Before we can *regain* our focus on God's Word, we need to examine what's causing Christians to lose their focus on the Bible?
1. **Worldly Influences - 2 Timothy 4:10 (NLT) Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica.**
 - Demas was a fellow work of Paul, but he deserted him because he loved the world more than living by the Word of God
 2. **Compromise - 1 Samuel 15:24 (NLT) Then Saul admitted to Samuel, "Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the LORD's command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded.**
 - King Saul disobeyed God's commands due to fear of the people's opinions
 3. **Neglect – 2 Chronicles 12:1 (NLT) But when Rehoboam was firmly established and strong, he abandoned the Law of the LORD, and all Israel followed him in this sin.**
 - King Rehoboam trusted in God so long as he felt he "needed" Him (established and strong), but he grew "independent" of God instead of *more dependent* on Him.
 - The worst part about Rehoboam's sin was that it led the entire kingdom into sin with him.
 - Neglecting regular study and meditation on God's Word can lead to spiritual apathy, spiritual weakness and spiritual decline
 - Many Christians will "live by the Word of God" until they get what they want
 4. **Popular Culture - Colossians 2:8 (NLT) Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.**
 - The word "capture" here means to be lead away prey
 - False teachers were stealing the faith of Colossian believers
 - What was being stolen from the Colossians was the truths of God and salvation they had received through the teachings of the Word of God
 - The false teachers today are movies, music, and social media that often *promote and propagate* values contrary to biblical principles, leading Christians astray
 5. **False Teachings - 2 Peter 2:1 (NLT) 1 But there were also false prophets in Israel, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cleverly teach destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them. In this way, they will bring sudden destruction on themselves.**
 - Peter says the false teachers are among you; they are not only outside the church, they are inside the church, too
 - It isn't that their teaching is secret, but the *deceptive nature* of their teaching is hidden
 - What makes false teachers so effective is they "appear" to be saved
 - False prophets and teachings can deceive believers and lead them astray from the truth of God's Word
 6. **"Self-help" books - 1 Corinthians 1:25 (NLT) This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.**

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- The wisdom of God, through it considered “foolish” by the world, is still greater than the wisdom of the world
- While some self-help books may offer helpful advice, they promote human wisdom over divine guidance and wisdom
- God was at His most “foolish” and very “weakest” at the cross, but it was infinitely wiser and stronger than anything man could do.

Refocus by Getting Back to and Continuing in the Word

2 Timothy 3:14-15 (KJV) 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- To refocus on the God's Word, we must get back to and continue in the Word
- Paul admonishes Timothy to *continue* in the things he had learned
- As a child Timothy had learned the Word of God from his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois
- Timothy was also disciplined, trained and mentored in the Word God by Paul
- As believers, it is not enough to have learned the Word of God, we are to continue learning
- We are to *live in* and *live out* the Word of God
- *Live in* the Word through faithful and diligent reading and study
- *Live out* the Word through our obedience to the Word of God
- Continue in the Word of God because it has great value to your life
- The wisdom found in God's Word leads us to salvation that comes from placing our faith in Jesus Christ
- Mere Bible knowledge does not saved us, it is our *faith* in God's Word that saves us
Romans 10:8-9 (KJV) 8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- Salvation is more than a “spiritual event” in our lives, salvation is ongoing growth through the Word of God
- Through the Word God we
 - Have been saved (past tense) *Justified* - ***Ephesians 2:8 (KJV) “For by grace are ye saved through faith...”***
 - Being saved (present tense) *Sanctified* - ***1 Corinthians 1:18 (NLT) 18 The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.***
 - Will be saved (future tense) *Glorified* - ***1 Peter 1:5 (NLT) 5 And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.***

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- When we continue *living in* and *living by* the Word of God, we are growing spiritually and preparing ourselves to spend eternity with Jesus

Refocus by Continuing to Have Confidence in the Word

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

- To regain our focus on God's Word is to *totally rely* on the Word of God
- All scripture is given by the *inspiration of God*, inspiration of God means *God-breathed*
- It is *inspiration of God*, not man, that breathed-out or produced the Bible
- Men wrote the Bible based on what *God* breathed-out *into* them
- Our spiritual growth and development as believers are directly tied to our reading, studying, learning, living by the Word of God
- The Bible is *profitable* or beneficial for our spiritual development as believers
 - *Doctrine* - Revealing to us the truth about God, mankind, the world we live in, and the world to come
 - *Reproof* – The Bible reveals God's will *and* exposes our rebellion and the consequences of our disobedience to the will of God
 - *Correction* – The Bible shows us how to correct our mistakes when we are wrong
 - *Instruction in Righteousness* – The Bible teaches believers the right things to do, to think, and to say.
 - The Bible teaches us how to live in *true* righteousness in a way we can understand
 - What good are instructions if you don't know how to follow them?
- It is the Word of God that perfects us and equips us for every good work
- No believer can be perfect, complete or mature apart from the Word of God
- God created us to live by the Word of God, if we try to live without the Word, we fail in life
- God's Word can make you complete and equip you for every good work
- The Word of God will make you useful to God and useful to those around you
- You have more than just a "love" for the Word
- Our study of the Word of God is not only save our own souls, but that we will use the Word of God to minister to save, to serve, and to comfort the souls of those around us
- Our desire to know *the truth* of God's Word must never overshadow *the purpose* of God's Word which equip us to do good
- Our study and knowledge of God's Word is not just to increase our "head knowledge" or to win "biblical arguments", it is *do* Jesus' work in the world around us